

"A Hide and Seek God"
Jeremiah 29:13

"Truly you are a God who hides himself, O God and Savior of Israel." Isaiah 45:15

"Now that same day two of them were going to a village...they were talking with each other.....as they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked with them; but they were kept from recognizing him." Luke 24:13-16

"When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I was not aware of it." Genesis 28:16

"And I will certainly hide my face on that day because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods." Deuteronomy 31:18

"At that time Jesus said, "I praise you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children." Matthew 11:25

"No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began." I Corinthians 2:7

Why would God hide?

1. To have authentic relationships with us

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

2. To have connected relationships with us

Principle: God does give us clues

"Since what may be known about God is plain to them; because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world Gods' invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:19, 20

"And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me." Romans 10:20

"God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us." Acts 17:27

Principle: It all comes down to the direction of your heart.

What keeps people from finding God?

1. Their past
2. Their lack of honesty

“.....I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3

3. Their pride

“All of you, clothe yourselves with humility, toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” I Peter 5:5

4. Their sins

How can I find God?

1. Take personal responsibility for becoming intimate with God
2. Spend time with God
3. Avoid things that dull your spiritual sensitivity
4. Seek to please God
5. Reflect on what God is doing in your life
6. Spend time with Christians who model intimacy
7. Participate in a forum that encourages intimacy
8. Practice intimacy with your family
9. Always ask, “What would Jesus do?”

“Then the blind man and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant and said to Him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have perfected praise?’” Matthew 21:14-16

“Father, fan the flames of hunger. May we never be the same. Set our hearts on fire.”